

## GUILLOTINE LIST OF WORDS.

## TUNNELS NOT YET LOADED FOR SIMPLE SPELLING MASSACRE.

News Gets Out That Dr. Jordan Is the Most-est of All the Red Judges and Appeals to Him for Mercy to This Innocent Word or That Come in Procession.

Twenty-two men and seven women sat in the East Room at the Waldorf-Astoria yesterday afternoon. They were all simple spellers, and they each held a printed programme (kindness of A. Carnegie). Prof. Lounsbury of Yale University, New Haven, Conn., presided. A stenographer (kindness of A. Carnegie) stenographed. The silence was broken only by speeches.

Every now and then a page brought in a card for Dr. David Starr Jordan. Occasionally Prof. Lounsbury yawned overwearily. In the back row an elderly man closed his eyes and slumbered. From time to time Prof. Calvin Thomas of Columbia made a motion. Once in a while the clock ticked. Brander Matthews stayed away. There was an atmosphere of gloom. It may have been resignation.

The discussion of the afternoon was about the list of 3,000 victims prepared by the Philological Society of England and the American Philological Association. Fifty names of the unfortunates named in the list appeared to have touched the breasts of several of the terrorist brand, and they made appeals for their favorites, mentioning some good trait of the accused, some kind deed done, some little act of charity or thoughtfulness.

A tall and thoughtful person of lawyerlike mien was encountered in the hall just outside the room where the fate of the 3,000 was being discussed. He was in the act of sending in a card to Dr. David Starr Jordan. Everybody has heard of the appeal, fervent though fruitless, that Dr. Jordan made for the life of poor "through," and now that he has established a reputation for kindness, everybody who has a friend marked for slaughter by the simple spellers endeavors to interest the president of Leland Stanford University in his behalf. It was so with the tall, lawyerlike person.

"I represent an anxious adjective," he said, "by the name of 'wholesome.' A rumor is afloat that there is a move on foot to cut out of his 'w.' I have left my client downstairs at the bar, where he is trying to brace himself up with a little of the booze recommended by the board—'whiskey,' not 'whiskey.' My client feels that without his 'w' life would never be the same again. He has worn that 'w' so long that he would be lonesome without it, and, moreover, few of his old friends would recognize him without it. He therefore prays and petitions—

"Dr. Jordan says," interrupted the page returning, "that he will be out just as soon as he finds out the phonetic differentiation between 'wh' and 'w.'"

"In that case," said the lawyerlike person, "I will be going. I shall recommend my client to appeal to the brutal con-sultatory."

Inside the jury room Henry Holt was considering the appeals for mercy that had been handed up by friends of many of the 3,000 selected martyrs. In fact, he was supplementing them. He said some of the condemned had lived comparatively harmless lives and that there were a lot of words that were far more disreputable than they were, judged by any standard of conduct. It looked to him, too, as if he had been shown in the selection of victims. There were too many exceptions and it is exceptions, he said, that make our lists scoffed at by the un-just.

All the same, Mr. Holt was far from abandoning the conspirators. What he wanted was a new list of 3,000. There were many things in that old list that went far to turn what the compilers of that list would make him call his stomach. Conspirator Holt wasn't actuated by any feelings of pity in the stand he took. Far from it. But there were a lot of words that had done things to him and he wanted to use his pull to have 'em put on the mass-sacre list.

He was so displeased that some of his etymological enemies had escaped a place on the original list of 3,000 that he called that list "an awful blotch" right out in meeting. Here a page came in with a card for Dr. Jordan.

Conspirator Holt warned his fellow plotters to beware of typewriters. He had told him to apply the rule about words ending in "ed," and the next day they spelled "retract" as if it were "retract." It appeared that typewriters had no judgment.

Mr. Holt moved that the meeting recon-vened the simplified board, that a committee of three be named to revise that list of 3,000 and submit it for the approval of the philologists who had made that "awful blotch" of which he complained. The motion was passed on motion of Prof. Lounsbury, who just came in with a card for Dr. Jordan.

Dr. William T. Harris talked a spell about spelling and memory tests and said that Dr. Holt was a wheelhorse on the word wagon, the inference being that Old Hoss Matthews was a leader. Dr. Harris aided him as he came in with a card for Dr. Jordan that Mr. Holt ought to be named as that slaughter committee.

Mr. Holt made some reply which the reporter missed, because just at that moment a page came in with a card for Dr. Jordan. The reporter was also absorbed in contemplating the cloud of witnessing glimmers that were in attendance and in wondering what could be the connection between simple spelling and complicated education.

The meeting ended as a page came in with a card for Dr. Jordan. The anxious adjective was found so full of "whiskey" that he didn't appear to care whether he lost his "w" or not.

## VICTOR HERBERT GRANDOPERA

The Composer Agrees With Hammerstein to Write the Score.

Oscar Hammerstein signed a contract with Victor Herbert yesterday by which the composer will provide a new grand opera for the Manhattan Opera House to be produced next season. The impresario has also offered \$1,000 for the libretto, preferably on an American subject. So soon as the libretto has been selected Mr. Herbert will set to work on the score.

"I want a simple, direct story," Mr. Hammerstein said, "that can be understood by the man in the last seat in the gallery. I have learned in my brief experience that such operas have the best chance of success. I am to my mind a perfect librettist."

"If it is more appropriate the opera can be sung in English. Mary Garden and Miss Norcia sing in that language and so does M. Dalmores." "The Rose of the Andes," but Mr. Hammerstein preferred to accept David Belasco's offer to be of all kinds assistance to him in arranging the opera text when it had once been accepted.

## New Amusement Park.

Canasie is to have a pleasure park called Golden City, which will be open to the public on May 18. The Brooklyn Rapid Transit will run express trains from both the Brook-lyn and Williamsburg bridges direct to the entrance to Golden City, the running time being 40 minutes. The fare to Canasie is only five cents. A large number of new attractions are promised and the usual standard amusements, such as scenic rail-ways, roller coasters, water rides and aerial motion devices, are nearing completion.

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## BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

The people of whom Kate Douglas Wiggin writes grow into being in the summer months at Quillote, the writer's summer home at Hollis, Me. To readers who care for literary geography it is interesting to know that the stream that runs through "Timothy's Quest," "Rebecca" and "Rose of the River" is the Saco River. As Mrs. Wiggin writes in her cool green study with the song of the river in her ears she looks out on the shining weather vane of the old barn—a golden quill, the emblem of her profession. A year ago all the fittings in the barn were removed, a new floor laid, casement windows added, and the building converted into a rustic hall. The century old rafters were left in their original tawny brown, other old barns furnished ancient bookshelves, antique lathes and moose horns. Sevens were fashioned from old boards weathered to a silver gray. Quaint lanterns fitted with candles hang from the harness pegs, and the old grain chest is piled high with cushions. Here the "lady of the twinkle and the tear," as she has been aptly called, entertains her friends and neighbors, and the old contra dances are merrily danced again in the old manner still preserved in the little community.

Justus Miles Forman is sailing for Europe soon, when he will go through Spain and then spend several months in cruising leisurely along the southern coast of the Black Sea, making excursions into the interior as often as fancy prompts him. Mr. Forman is evidently one of the authors who believe in seeking local color on the spot.

"The Princess Virginia," C. N. and A. M. Williamson's new romantic novel, will be published early in April. The Anglo-German Princess has American blood in her veins and refuses to marry the young Emperor designated for political reasons to be her consort. She meets him disguised as a chamois hunter and after various adventures and difficulties the affair terminates satisfactorily for the Princess and the political advisers.


In answer to one of his critics who said of the pirates in "The Mystery" that they were a poor lot not to get a drink in two years," Mr. Adams writes: "I would passionately inquire what the critic expects for \$1.50? At what price does he require a convoy to our desert isle laden with Manhattan cocktails and abstinence for the Laughing Lasse crew? Of what avail is it to create and maintain the only total abstinence buccaners in fiction? It seems that our good intentions have gone to fill a paving contract in that place from which bourne no critic e'er returns. I have reported the critic to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and leave him to their tender mercies and ready resolutions."

The "History of Nursing," to be published soon, follows the care and rescue of the sick through the pagan civilizations, the early Christian works of mercy, the nursing orders of the crusades, the Deaconess order, down to the modern revival under Miss Nightingale. Miss Nutting and Miss Dock, both of whom are well known in the nursing world, are writing this history. Miss Nutting was the head of the Johns Hopkins Hospital training school and has recently been called to the chair of institutional management at Columbia.

"Farm Management," the second volume of the new "Farm Library," which comes out this week, will deal with the expenses, accounts and management of the financial part of successful farming. The book is based upon facts and is a practical demonstration of the most systematic and economical method of carrying on a farm.

In spite of his fame and the honors paid to him at his death Giuseppe Carducci did not greatly enrich himself by his writings. According to the statement of his publisher Carducci during a period of nearly forty years received only the sum of 120,000 francs. Considering that this amount included all the works which made Carducci famous during his life and promises to make his name immortal, it cannot be said that the profession of letters in Italy is a very remunerative one.

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In Goldoni's "Un Curioso Accidente" last night at the Lyric Novelli added another to his lengthening list of comedy portraits, superlative alike in its finely and subtly detailed differentiation from all that have preceded it and in its mellow and exuberant humor. The audience was much smaller than those that have sat dubiously through his drab representations of Shakespearean tragedy, but it rippled and bubbled and roared with merriment.

The action is founded on a real incident reported to Goldoni in a letter from a friend in Holland. A Dutch burger, victim of the plot of a spirited daughter, contrives her elopement with an impecunious young French officer, even lending the young couple his well filled purse. He has been led to believe that the bride is to be not his own daughter but the daughter of a

## HISTORY OF FLAGELLATION, Moll Flanders, Apuleius Golden Ass. Any book, PRATT, 161 6th av.

miserly old neighbor. It is not so much a case of deception as of self-deception. This *Filberto* digs the pit for himself with resourceful invention, with overflowing unctious, with ecstatic fatuousness. When at last the truth comes out he beats his head with rage but in the end is obliged to grin and bear it.

Goldoni has deployed his intrigue and the development of his character with elaborate and resourceful dexterity, extracting every shade of humor with the appearance of the utmost ease. Novelli illustrates the whole with unflinching comic invention. His reading of the brief letters in which his daughter and her new husband confess their deception occupies fully ten minutes, every moment of which is alive with comic surprise and delight. And the character is never buffooned. In the loftiest flight of vein and fatuous self-deception his *Filberto* is always a man of acute intelligence, a dignified and whole hearted gentleman. The art of Couffine was never more distinguished in fine quality than in broad humor.

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Issue of April 5 Published To-Day

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By GROVER CLEVELAND  
THE PAPACY AND CHRISTENDOM  
By ARCHBISHOP IRELAND

Other special articles of interest in this number are: "Swinburne's Seventieth Birthday," by Alfred Noyes; "Jackson and Roosevelt: a Parallel," by the Editor; "Fiona Macleod and her Creator," by Catharine A. Janvier; "Humor: Its Kinsfolk and Acquaintance," by C. B. Brewster; "The First House of Burgesses," by Kate Langley Bosher.

New books of importance are reviewed by Professor Brander Matthews, Edward Porritt, Olivia Howard Dunbar. Pertinent topics under World Politics: Mr. Roosevelt and the Railways Drawing Together; Will Mr. Roosevelt Name His Successor? Our Relation to the Central American War.

The Editor's Diary

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